

Remarks

Claims 1-40 were pending. Claims 1-6, 9, 19, 20, 24-26, 29, and 38-40 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7, 13-17, 27, and 30 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the original claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 7, 8, 10-18, 21-23, 27, 28, and 30-37 are now pending.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9, 19, 20, 29 and 30 contain allowable subject matter.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and passage of the claims to allowance.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-8, 10-18, 21-28 and 31-40 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kondo et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,834,132), and also by Selfridge et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,352,374).

Claims 1-8, 10-18, 21-28 and 31-40 were also rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bonanni et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,204,925).

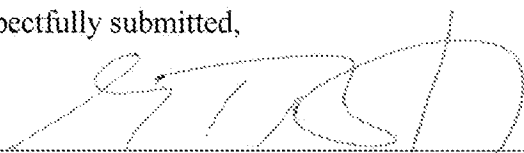
Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 7 to include the features of original claim 9, Applicants have amended claim 13 to include the features of original claim 20, Applicants have amended claim 17 to place it in independent form and to further include the features of original claim 19, and Applicants have amended claim 27 to include the features of original claim 29. Further, Applicants have amended claims 14-16 and 30 for antecedent basis purposes. As claims 9, 19, 20, 29 and 30 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kondo et al., Selfridge et al., and Bonanni et al. have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. Please contact the undersigned should there be any questions or in order to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

By: 
Gregg H. Rosenblatt, Reg. No.: 45,056
Telephone No.: (512) 984-7443

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833